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**Subject:** Weekly Report of Superfund Division for the Week of 03/18/2016

## Highlights of Past Week

**Hunters Point:** Last week, NBC news featured a former Tetra Tech EC Navy contract employee at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Superfund site who “claims supervisors ordered him to hide radiation.” He stated that he was told to replace potentially contaminated soil samples with clean ones, hide potentially contaminated soil into open trenches, and falsify records. Since 2012, the Navy discovered questionable Tetra Tech EC practices, some related to these claims. The company has redone work. EPA and other agencies have reviewed that new work to ensure protectiveness. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees Tetra Tech EC’s license for radiation cleanup, issued the company a Letter of Apparent Violation last month and is considering escalated enforcement action. The Navy and several other agencies are also investigating the allegations that are new. Region 9’s press office has prepared a desk statement in case of public inquiries. The article is at this link: <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Former-Hunters-Point-Worker-Claims-Supervisors-Ordered-Him-to-Hide-Radiation-371723561.html>. (Contact: Lily Lee x7-4187, Jackie Lane x2-3236)

**Site Assessment Team Explores San Luis Obispo PCE/TCE Contamination:** As a part of the San Luis Obispo Discovery Project, EPA met with Central Coast Regional Water Board officials and DTSC to identify sources of multiple VOC groundwater contamination plumes in the city and county of San Luis Obispo. The Water Board has already been working to identify the source of TCE contamination near the San Luis Obispo Regional Airport, which has been detected in private wells at levels above MCL. Additional discovery and site assessment is needed at sites near San Luis Obispo’s downtown area and near the Water Board offices to determine the source(s) of PCE and 1,1 DCE. Ground truthing and site visits were conducted March 16. (Contact: Sharon Murray, x7-4250)

**Navajo Uranium Mines Joint Agency Meetings:** Last week Dr. Benn (NNEPA Director), U.S. EPA (Regions 6 & 9), New Mexico and others met in Albuquerque for the FY2016 Navajo Superfund Quarterly and Tronox Joint Agency Meetings. Navajo Chief of Staff Arbin Mitchell and Nina Chester from the Navajo Nation Office

of the President and Vice President also attended the meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to coordinate our actions within Navajo Nation and New Mexico for work associated with the remediation and restoration of areas contaminated by past uranium mining and uranium processing. The agenda included updates on project status, Navajo Nation workforce development, community involvement, and programmatic topics such as enforcement, financial, grants, and contracting. The meetings were very productive and we agreed to move forward with \$12M in Tronox-funded projects on and impacting the Navajo Nation. (Contact: Linda Reeves, x2-3445, Chip Poalinelli, x2-3390)

**Frontier Fertilizer (Davis, CA):** This week, DTSC and their contractor, ERRG, observed EPA's treatment plant sampling and granulated activated carbon (GAC) change-out procedures. This was the second visit prior to September 2016 transfer of the site to the state of California as the lead agency for operation and maintenance activities at the site. (Contact: Bonnie Arthur, x2-3030)

**Triple Site (Sunnyvale, CA):** Indoor air sampling continues this week in the residential neighborhood in the Offsite OU. Re-testing of the small gym at The King's Academy will occur on Tuesday (grab samples, 1-hr, 4-hr and 8-hr samples) with the doors to the gym remaining open for the entire duration of sampling. The results from this testing will show whether the fresh air flow from the open door is sufficient to maintain levels within the acceptable range while the gym is in use. If not, an interim ventilation measure will be implemented until the permanent mitigation system is installed. A letter is also being finalized this week to the parents of The King's Academy, informing them about the indoor air testing results and next steps. (Contact: Melanie Morash x2-3050 or Alejandro Diaz x2-3242)

**Del Amo/Montrose:** EPA project staff (Yolanda Sanchez, Ray Chavira, and Cynthia Wetmore) have developed a letter that highlights EPA Region 9's preliminary comments and concerns on a draft report for the Five Year Review. Based on EPA's limited review, the document contains inaccurate, out-of-date, and factually misleading information and, on occasion, is taken out of context with decision documents and other site-related documents. The site team has decided to pause all Technical Assistance Support for Communities funding for the project, leaving this deliverable as a draft document. We intend to publicly share the draft with the Del Amo Action Committee, along with a copy of the brief letter. We do not plan to alter the language in the document, as this draft deliverable represent a third-party review of our work. (Contact: Yolanda Sanchez, x2-3880)

**AMCO Superfund Site (West Oakland, CA):** AMCO site team members Kelly Manheimer and Sarah Cafasso met with "core" members of the AMCO Community Advisory Group twice in the last week, once through a conference call and once in person at the AMCO site. The EPA team shared updates on the upcoming remedy construction and sought input on the community notification plan, amongst other important topics. The meetings were positive and productive. Mobilization is planned at the site in May 2016. (Contact: Sarah Cafasso, x2-3076)

**Brownfields Area Wide Planning Webinar:** The Brownfields Team hosted a webinar on March 15, on grant resources to conduct area wide planning for brownfields reuse and redevelopment. Brownfield sites are often connected and have inter-related impacts - economic, social, and environmental. Area wide planning allows communities to approach contaminated sites holistically to revitalize entire areas. We expect OLEM to post the FY17 Brownfields Area Wide Planning grant solicitation in April. This webinar was hosted in anticipation of the upcoming grant solicitation. (Contact: Nova Blazej, x2-3846)

**Pemaco:** Ron Lawrence, field representative for State Assemblyman Anthony Rendon's office, 63rd district contacted Rose Marie Caraway to arrange for a site visit for himself and the new City of Maywood's City Manager Pedro Carrillo. On March 10, EPA/Army Corps of Engineer contractors conducted the site visit with the following attendees: Enrique Vega, City of Maywood Staff, Ricardo Villarreal, City of Maywood - Mayor, Andre Dupret, City of Maywood, Project Manager, and Aide Castro, State Assembly Field Representative, 63rd District (Anthony Rendon's Office). The visitor's were given a Health and Safety Orientation and a quick look

at the treatment plant. They also visited the entrance to the former Thermal Heating area which is currently ready for the City to take over for Park Construction. EPA completed removing the electrodes for the project late last year. The visitors discussed the area available and stated that they did not currently have funding to finish the build out of the park in this estimated 2 acre area. The group stated that they would be working with other non-profit groups and Assemblyman Rendon's office in order to find funding to complete construction of the park. They were informed the EPA annual meeting with the community is on September 8. They will meet with Rose Marie Caraway, the RPM the next time she is in Maywood which will occur during late Spring. (Contact: Rosemarie Caraway, x2-3158)

**Removal Assessment at Medical Waste Site, CNMI:** OSC Michelle Rogow conducted a removal assessment of a medical waste site in CNMI (at the request of the DEQ Director and BECQ Administrator).

**Removal Assessments Related to the California Wild Fires:** OSCs Bret Moxley and Robert Wise are planning removal assessments at sites impacted by the Valley and Butte Fires. The Valley Fire assessment is at homesites contaminated with mercury post-Valley Fire. These homesites were cleared by CalRecycle but subsequently high concentrations of mercury were found in soils. The Butte Fire assessment is at the 3M Lane Dioxin site in Calaveras County. We did removal work at both wild fires under mission assignments from FEMA but those MAs have expired. This follow up work is being done under normal CERCLA authority.

**Collaboration on Government Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUE) - MOA:** EPA, the U. S. Coast Guard, District 11 (USCG) and the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) executed an MOA that codifies our collaboration in undertaking GIUEs. This collaboration will allow a facility to run one exercise (i.e., call out their Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) and task staff to execute their response plan) for all three agencies, thus creating significant savings for a facility while still providing the opportunity to meet regulatory requirements. In addition working collaboratively optimizes the opportunities to see performance objectives one would not otherwise see if working alone and signals to both industry and the public that we will partner to optimize tax dollars, meet regulatory intent, and ensure/increase industry preparedness across California. (Contact: Lance Richman, x2-3022)

#### **Significant Items for Next Week**

**Argonaut Mine Site (Jackson CA):** The EPA Argonaut Team is holding a community meeting in Jackson, CA on March 22 to update the community on the 2015 removal work (including yard cleanups and a cleanup at a junior high school) and provide information about the NPL listing process. EPA is planning to propose the site to the NPL in Spring 2016. (Contact: Sarah Cafasso x2-3076 or Leslie Ramirez x2-3978)

**Inspection of DPC Enterprises and Hill Brothers Chemical:** Cynthia Steiner, Jeremy Deyoe, Robert Lucas and Region 9 contractor will conduct CAA 112r inspections of the DPC Enterprises (Glendale) and Hill Brothers Chemical Co. (Phoenix Facility 2006) located in Arizona on March 22-23. (Contact: Cynthia Steiner, x7-4112)

#### **Press Stories, Significant Policy, Regulatory, or Legal Actions (2-3 Weeks Out)**

#### **Grant Announcements**

#### **Legislative Engagement**

## **Travel, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagement for Division Director**

### **Other Information**

**Division Director Schedule:** Enrique Manzanilla is in the office next week.

### **30-60 Day Outlook**

### **Internal to Region 9**

**Hassayampa:** A final revision of the draft Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) #2 to update the soil vapor performance standards (SVPSs) is being prepared to incorporate ORC's comments. ADEQ's comments are expected by the end of this week. The goal is to route the ESD for Superfund management review and signature the last week in March. A \$15K MSCA funding increase to ADEQ through June 2016 is still processing through R9 Grants. A technical meeting is being planned with the HSC, ADEQ, EPA and the Corps in Phoenix on May 18. Separately, a Reclassification Memo for transferring \$850K from the Hassayampa Special Account has been prepared for HQ review. (Contact: Andira Benner, x2-3189)

### **Confidential Information**